



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/617,977	07/11/2003	Rolf Espe	912.001	4056
23598 7590 08/13/2008 BOYLE FREDRICKSON S.C. 840 North Plankinton Avenue MILWAUKEE, WI 53203				
EXAMINER				
CHOL PETER Y				
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
1794				
NOTIFICATION DATE		DELIVERY MODE		
08/13/2008		ELECTRONIC		

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

docketing@boylefred.com

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/617,977

Applicant(s)

ESPE, ROLF

Examiner

Peter Y. Choi

Art Unit

1794

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 19 February 2008.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1, 2, 4, 7, 8 and 11-24 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1, 2, 4, 7, 8 and 11-24 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 11 July 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Information Disclosure Statement

1. It is noted that DE 19709644 was not cited in an IDS even though the patent is clearly material to the current application. It is noted that DE 19709644 appears to share the same inventor and assignee as the current application. 37 CFR 1.56(a) states that the "duty of candor and good faith" is owed "in dealing with the Office" and that all associated with the filing and prosecution of a patent application have a duty to disclose to the Office information material to the present application. Materiality is not limited to prior art but embraces any information that a reasonable examiner would be substantially likely to consider important in deciding whether to allow an application to issue as a patent.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1, 2, 4, 7, 8, and 11-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over EP 1040910 to Best (with USPN 6,342,457 cited as the translation of EP 1040910), in view of US Pub. No. 2001/0029139 to Espe.

Regarding claims 1, 2, 4, 7, 8, 21, and 22, Best teaches a press pad comprising a fabric that includes a warp and a weft, and wherein one of the warp or weft includes a pattern of alternating types of thread, the pattern repeating itself in the fabric, wherein the pattern of

alternating types of threads includes at least two types of thread of different elasticities transverse to the thread axis, wherein one type of thread comprises a sheath made of an elastomeric material and a core, wherein the core of one of the types of thread is metal based and the core of the other type of thread is polymer-based, and wherein a diameter of the first type of thread is generally equal to a diameter of the second type of thread such that the diameters of the two types of thread are generally equal (see entire document including column 1 line 4 to column 2 line 63, column 3 lines 10-49, claims 1-20, Figure 2).

Regarding claims 1, 2, 4, 7, 8, 21, and 22, Best does not appear to teach that each type of thread comprises a sheath made of an elastomeric material and a core with a higher tensile strength than the sheath, and wherein the core of one of the types of thread is metal based. However, Best does teach that the press cushion or pad comprises thermally conductive threads and cushion threads, the thermally conductive threads comprising a metal such as copper or brass, and the cushion threads comprising a core aramid thread with a silicone elastomer sheath (Best, column 2 lines 8-55, column 3 lines 10-49). Espe teaches a substantially similar woven press pad comprising warps and wefts, wherein the warp and/or weft threads comprise a core and a sheath, the core comprising thermally conductive metal threads, such as copper or brass, and the sheath comprising a fluoroelastomer, a fluorosilicone elastomer, or a blend elastomer (Espe, paragraphs 0002-0026, 0028, 0034-0039, 0041, 0042). Additionally, Espe teaches that the invention of Espe may comprise other yarns or other threads to achieve or adjust the resulting characteristics of the required pad (Id., paragraph 0042) and that it was known in the press pad art to combine metal yarn and aromatic polyamide in press pads (Id., paragraphs 0006-0016). Espe teaches press pads made with such threads are especially advantageous due to their

excellent thermal resistance and durability, and chemical resistance against essentially all of the chemical compounds that typically arise in the use of press pads in pressing equipment, and very good padding and elasticity characteristics (Id., paragraph 0042).

When a work is available in one field, design incentives and other market forces can prompt variations of it, either in the same field or in another. If a person of ordinary skill in the art can implement a predictable variation, and would see the benefit of doing so, § 103 likely bars its patentability. Moreover, if a technique has been used to improve one device, and a person of ordinary skill in the art would recognize that it would improve similar devices in the same way, using the technique is obvious unless its actual application is beyond that person's skill.

One of ordinary skill in the press pad art at the time the invention was made, when viewing the state of the press pad art and the predictable improvements in structures known in the art, would be motivated to improve the thermally conductive threads of the prior art, with the structure taught by Espe, since the improvements of Espe were known to one of ordinary skill in the press pad art and it would have predictably improved similar articles in the same way. In the present case, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the press cushion or pad art at the time the invention was made to form the press pad of Best, wherein the thermally conductive threads comprise the thermally conductive threads of Espe, motivated by the desire of forming a conventional press pad with an improved thermally conductive thread known in the art to predictably improve press pads by providing the press pad with excellent thermal resistance and durability, and chemical resistance against essentially all of the chemical compounds that

typically arise in the use of press pads in pressing equipment, and very good padding and elasticity characteristics.

Regarding claims 1, 2, 4, 7, 8, 21, and 22, the prior art does not appear to specifically teach that the cores of the two types of thread have a higher tensile strength than the sheath. However, the limitation requiring that the cores of the two types of thread having a higher tensile strength than the sheath appear to be inherent characteristics of the threads of the prior art since the prior art teaches substantially similar structures and compositions of the sheaths and cores as the claimed threads, as evidenced by Applicants' specification at pages 4 and 5. Products of identical structure and composition cannot have mutually exclusive properties. The burden is on the Applicants to prove otherwise.

Regarding claim 2, the prior art teaches that the at least two types of thread have polymer material at least on their lateral surfaces (Best, column 2 lines 8-55; Espe, paragraphs 0020-0026, 0028, 0034-0039, 0041, 0042, Figure).

Regarding claim 4, the prior art teaches that the at least two types of thread each are bunched or stranded from fibers (Best, column 2 lines 8-55; Espe, paragraphs 0020-0026, 0028, 0034-0039, 0041, 0042, Figure).

Regarding claim 7, the polymer based core is essentially made of polyamide (Best, column 2 lines 8-55).

Regarding claim 8, the prior art teaches that at least one of the cores is essentially bunched or stranded from fibers (Best, column 2 lines 8-55; Espe, paragraphs 0020-0026, 0028, 0034-0039, 0041, 0042, Figure).

Regarding claims 11-17 and 23, Best teaches a press pad comprising a warp and a weft, at least one of the warp and weft including a pattern of alternating types of threads having different elasticities transverse to a thread axis, each type of thread including a core, and wherein the core of one of the types of thread is metallic and the core of another type of thread is polymer-based, and the weft being interwoven with the warp, wherein the pattern of alternating types of threads repeats itself in the at least one of the warp and the weft, wherein a diameter of the first type of thread is generally equal to diameter of the second type of thread (see entire document including column 1 line 4 to column 2 line 63, column 3 lines 10-49, claims 1-20, Figure 2).

Regarding claims 11-17 and 23, Best does not appear to teach that one of the threads comprises a metallic core and a polymer material at least on its lateral surface. However, Best does teach that the press cushion or pad comprises thermally conductive threads and cushion threads, the thermally conductive threads comprising a metal such as copper or brass, and the cushion threads comprising a core aramid thread with a silicone elastomer sheath (Best, column 2 lines 8-55, column 3 lines 10-49). Espe teaches a substantially similar woven press pad comprising warps and wefts, wherein the warp and/or weft threads comprise a core and a sheath, the core comprising thermally conductive metal threads, such as copper or brass, and the sheath comprising a fluoroelastomer, a fluorosilicone elastomer, or a blend elastomer (Espe, paragraphs 0002-0026, 0028, 0034-0039, 0041, 0042). Additionally, Espe teaches that the invention of Espe may comprise other yarns or other threads to achieve or adjust the resulting characteristics of the required pad (Id., paragraph 0042) and that it was known in the press pad art to combine metal yarn and aromatic polyamide in press pads (Id., paragraphs 0006-0016). Espe teaches press pads

made with such threads are especially advantageous due to their excellent thermal resistance and durability, and chemical resistance against essentially all of the chemical compounds that typically arise in the use of press pads in pressing equipment, and very good padding and elasticity characteristics (Id., paragraph 0042).

When a work is available in one field, design incentives and other market forces can prompt variations of it, either in the same field or in another. If a person of ordinary skill in the art can implement a predictable variation, and would see the benefit of doing so, § 103 likely bars its patentability. Moreover, if a technique has been used to improve one device, and a person of ordinary skill in the art would recognize that it would improve similar devices in the same way, using the technique is obvious unless its actual application is beyond that person's skill.

One of ordinary skill in the press pad art at the time the invention was made, when viewing the state of the press pad art and the predictable improvements in structures known in the art, would be motivated to improve the thermally conductive threads of the prior art, with the structure taught by Espe, since the improvements of Espe were known to one of ordinary skill in the press pad art and it would have predictably improved similar articles in the same way. In the present case, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the press cushion or pad art at the time the invention was made to form the press pad of Best, wherein the thermally conductive threads comprise the thermally conductive threads of Espe, motivated by the desire of forming a conventional press pad with an improved thermally conductive thread known in the art to predictably improve press pads by providing the press pad with excellent thermal resistance and durability, and chemical resistance against essentially all of the chemical compounds that

typically arise in the use of press pads in pressing equipment, and very good padding and elasticity characteristics.

Regarding claims 12-17, the prior art does not appear to specifically teach that at least one weft thread and at least one warp thread has a sheath made of a polymer material and a core having a higher tensile strength than this sheath. However, the limitation requiring that the cores of the two types of thread having a higher tensile strength than the sheath appear to be inherent characteristics of the threads of the prior art since the prior art teaches substantially similar structures and compositions of the sheaths and cores as the claimed threads, as evidenced by Applicants' specification at pages 4 and 5. Products of identical structure and composition cannot have mutually exclusive properties. The burden is on the Applicants to prove otherwise.

Regarding claim 13, the prior art teaches that the metallic core is essentially made of brass (Best, column 2 lines 8-55; Espe, paragraphs 0020-0026, 0028, 0034-0039, 0041, 0042, Figure).

Regarding claim 14, the polymer-based core is essentially made of polyamide (Best, column 2 lines 8-55; Espe, paragraphs 0020-0026, 0028, 0034-0039, 0041, 0042, Figure).

Regarding claim 15, the warp has a core that is essentially bunched or stranded from fibers (Best, column 2 lines 8-55; Espe, paragraphs 0020-0026, 0028, 0034-0039, 0041, 0042, Figure).

Regarding claim 16, the at least one type of thread is bunched or stranded from fibers (Best, column 2 lines 8-55; Espe, paragraphs 0020-0026, 0028, 0034-0039, 0041, 0042, Figure).

Regarding claims 18-20 and 24, Best teaches a press pad with improved pressure compression having a warp and a weft in communication with the warp, wherein at least one of

the warp and the weft includes an alternating pattern of at least two types of threads of differing elasticities in the transverse to the thread axis, each type of thread having a core, wherein the core of one thread has a core that is metal based and another type of thread has a core that is polymer-based and wherein the diameters of the all of the types of thread in the alternating pattern are generally equal (see entire document including column 1 line 4 to column 2 line 63, column 3 lines 10-49, claims 1-20, Figure 2).

Regarding claims 18-20 and 24, Best does not appear to teach that one of the threads comprises a metallic core and a sheath that is an elastomer. However, Best does teach that the press cushion or pad comprises thermally conductive threads and cushion threads, the thermally conductive threads comprising a metal such as copper or brass, and the cushion threads comprising a core aramid thread with a silicone elastomer sheath (Best, column 2 lines 8-55, column 3 lines 10-49). Espe teaches a substantially similar woven press pad comprising warps and wefts, wherein the warp and/or weft threads comprise a core and a sheath, the core comprising thermally conductive metal threads, such as copper or brass, and the sheath comprising a fluoroelastomer, a fluorosilicone elastomer, or a blend elastomer (Espe, paragraphs 0002-0026, 0028, 0034-0039, 0041, 0042). Additionally, Espe teaches that the invention of Espe may comprise other yarns or other threads to achieve or adjust the resulting characteristics of the required pad (Id., paragraph 0042) and that it was known in the press pad art to combine metal yarn and aromatic polyamide in press pads (Id., paragraphs 0006-0016). Espe teaches press pads made with such threads are especially advantageous due to their excellent thermal resistance and durability, and chemical resistance against essentially all of the chemical compounds that

Art Unit: 1794

typically arise in the use of press pads in pressing equipment, and very good padding and elasticity characteristics (Id., paragraph 0042).

When a work is available in one field, design incentives and other market forces can prompt variations of it, either in the same field or in another. If a person of ordinary skill in the art can implement a predictable variation, and would see the benefit of doing so, § 103 likely bars its patentability. Moreover, if a technique has been used to improve one device, and a person of ordinary skill in the art would recognize that it would improve similar devices in the same way, using the technique is obvious unless its actual application is beyond that person's skill.

One of ordinary skill in the press pad art at the time the invention was made, when viewing the state of the press pad art and the predictable improvements in structures known in the art, would be motivated to improve the thermally conductive threads of the prior art, with the structure taught by Espe, since the improvements of Espe were known to one of ordinary skill in the press pad art and it would have predictably improved similar articles in the same way. In the present case, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the press cushion or pad art at the time the invention was made to form the press pad of Best, wherein the thermally conductive threads comprise the thermally conductive threads of Espe, motivated by the desire of forming a conventional press pad with an improved thermally conductive thread known in the art to predictably improve press pads by providing the press pad with excellent thermal resistance and durability, and chemical resistance against essentially all of the chemical compounds that typically arise in the use of press pads in pressing equipment, and very good padding and elasticity characteristics.

Regarding claims 18-20 and 24, the prior art does not appear to specifically teach that the sheath has a high temperature stability above 200 degrees Celsius, and that the core of each type of thread all has a higher tensile strength than the sheath. However, the claimed properties appear to be inherent characteristics of the threads of the prior art since the prior art teaches substantially similar structures and compositions of the sheaths and cores as the claimed threads, as evidenced by Applicants' specification at pages 4 and 5. Products of identical structure and composition cannot have mutually exclusive properties. The burden is on the Applicants to prove otherwise.

Regarding claim 19, the polymer based core is essentially made of polyamide (Best, column 2 lines 8-55).

Regarding claim 20, the prior art teaches that at least one core is essentially bunched or stranded from fibers (Best, column 2 lines 8-55; Espe, paragraphs 0020-0026, 0028, 0034-0039, 0041, 0042, Figure).

Regarding claims 21 and 22, the prior art teaches that the diameters of the two types of thread are generally equal for generating a padding effect and a generally homogenous pressure distribution over an area of the press pad (Best, column 1 line 4 to column 2 line 63, column 3 lines 10-49, claims 1-20, Figure 2).

Regarding claim 22, the prior art teaches that the press pad is incorporated into a pressing machine (Best, column 1 line 4 to column 2 line 63, column 3 lines 10-49, claims 1-20, Figure 2; Espe, paragraphs 0020-0026, 0028, 0034-0039, 0041, 0042, Figure).

Regarding claim 22, the prior art does not appear to specifically teach that the pressing machine is constructed to apply a coating of a wear resistant melamine resin overlay to a

material, and wherein the press pad is constructed to prevent graying of the wear resistant resin. However, the claimed limitations appear to be intended uses of the pressing machine. A recitation of the intended use of the claimed invention must result in a structural difference between the claimed invention and the prior art in order to patentably distinguish the claimed invention from the prior art. If the prior art structure is capable of performing the intended use, then it meets the claim. Since Applicants have not claimed any structural or compositional characteristics of the claimed pressing machine, it is presumed that the pressing machine recited in the prior art (Best, column 1 line 4 to column 2 line 63, column 3 lines 10-49, claims 1-20, Figure 2; Espe, paragraphs 0002-0026, 0028, 0034-0039, 0041, 0042) is capable of performing the recited intended uses, absent evidence to the contrary. It should be noted that Applicants' remarks of December 12, 2006, recite that the claim only further define the operation and function of the threads.

Regarding claim 23, the prior art teaches that the diameters of the types of thread are generally equal for generally equalizing different pressures across an area of the material (Best, column 1 line 4 to column 2 line 63, column 3 lines 10-49, claims 1-20, Figure 2).

Regarding claim 23, the prior art does not appear to specifically teach that the diameter specifications are for preventing graying of a wear resistant overlay applied to a material processed proximate the press pad. However, the claimed limitation appears to recite an intended characteristic of the claimed invention rather than a positively recited structure required by the claimed invention. In other words, Applicants are not claiming a wear resistant melamine resin and characteristics associated with the resin; Applicants are only claiming that *when* a wear resistant melamine resin overlay is applied to a material processed proximate the press pad, the

diameters *will* be useful for preventing graying. Therefore, the claimed limitation requiring that the diameter specifications are for preventing graying of a wear resistant melamine resin overlay applied to a material processed proximate the press pad and uniformly distributing the homogenous pressure distribution across an area of the wear resistant melamine does not appear to structurally or compositionally distinguish the claimed invention from the invention of the prior art. Additionally, the prior art teaches that the press pad generates a padding effect and a generally homogenous pressure distribution over an area of the press pad to ensure uniform contact pressure over the entire surface (Best, column 1 line 4 to column 2 line 63, column 3 lines 10-49, claims 1-20, Figure 2). Therefore, one of ordinary skill in the art would expect that the press pad of the prior art would behave substantially similarly and/or identically as the claimed invention since the prior art teaches a substantially similar structure and composition as the claimed invention. It should be noted that Applicants' remarks of December 12, 2006, recite that the claim only further define the operation and function of the threads.

Regarding claim 24, the prior art teaches that the diameters of all of the types of thread are generally equal for generating a padding effect and a generally homogenous pressure distribution over an area of the press pad (Best, column 1 line 4 to column 2 line 63, column 3 lines 10-49, claims 1-20, Figure 2).

Regarding claim 24, the prior art does not appear to specifically teach that the diameter specification is for preventing graying of a wear resistant melamine resin overlay applied to a material processed proximate the press pad and uniformly distributing the homogenous pressure distribution across an area of the wear resistant melamine. However, the claimed limitation appears to recite an intended characteristic of the claimed invention rather than a positively

Art Unit: 1794

recited structure required by the claimed invention. In other words, Applicants are not claiming that a wear resistant melamine resin and characteristics associated with the resin; Applicants are only claiming that *when* a wear resistant melamine resin overlay is applied to a material processed proximate the press pad, the diameters *will* be useful for preventing graying and uniformly distributing the homogenous pressure distribution across an area of the wear resistant melamine. Therefore, the claimed limitation requiring that the diameter specification is for preventing graying of a wear resistant melamine resin overlay applied to a material processed proximate the press pad and uniformly distributing the homogenous pressure distribution across an area of the wear resistant melamine does not appear to structurally or compositionally distinguish the claimed invention from the invention of the prior art. Additionally, the prior art teaches that the press pad generates a padding effect and a generally homogenous pressure distribution over an area of the press pad to ensure uniform contact pressure over the entire surface (Best, column 1 line 4 to column 2 line 63, column 3 lines 10-49, claims 1-20, Figure 2). Therefore, one of ordinary skill in the art would expect that the press pad of the prior art would behave substantially similarly and/or identically as the claimed invention since the prior art teaches a substantially similar structure and composition as the claimed invention. It should be noted that Applicants' remarks of December 12, 2006, recite that the claim only further define the operation and function of the threads.

4. Claims 1, 2, 4, 7, 8, and 11-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over EP 1040910 to Best (with USPN 6,342,457 cited as the translation of EP 1040910), in view of US Pub. No. 2001/0029139 to Espe and further in view of DE 19709644 to Hennecken (translation provided).

Regarding claims 1, 2, 4, 7, 8, and 11-24, in the event it is shown that Best in view of Espe does not specifically teach the combination of a metal threads and threads comprising an aromatic polyamide core and a silicone elastomer and/or a fluoropolymer having a high temperature stability above 200 degrees Celsius, Hennecken teaches that it was known in the press pad art to form a press pad comprising threads having an elastic material with a metal filament core and threads having an aromatic polyamide core and a silicone elastomer and/or a fluoropolymer having a high temperature stability above 200 degrees Celsius (Hennecken, page 2-8, claims 1-7). Hennecken teaches that press pads comprising threads having an aromatic polyamide core and a silicone elastomer and/or a fluoropolymer are especially advantageous due to improved padding effect, a great ability to relax and fine heat transfer. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the press pad art at the time the invention was made to form the press pad of the prior art, wherein the press pad comprises the threads having a metal core in combination with the threads of Hennecken comprising an aromatic polyamide core and a silicone elastomer and/or a fluoropolymer, motivated by the desire of forming a conventional press pad with threads known in the art to be predictably suitable in press pads due to their advantageous characteristics such as an improved padding effect, a great ability to relax and fine heat transfer.

Response to Arguments

5. Applicants' arguments with respect to claims 1, 2, 4, 7, 8, and 11-24 have been considered but are moot in view of the new grounds of rejection.

Conclusion

6. Applicants' amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Peter Y. Choi whose telephone number is (571)272-6730. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday, 08:00 - 15:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Rena Dye can be reached on (571) 272-3186. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 1794

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Andrew T Piziali/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1794

/Peter Y Choi/
Examiner, Art Unit 1794